

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An application management system, comprising

- a management server computer;
- at least one managed application being coupled to the server computer via a communication network; and
- means for encoding and decoding application management data for transmission ~~between~~ from the management server computer ~~and to~~ the managed application, the means for encoding and decoding application management data being adapted to encode and decode application management data at least partially based on an ~~markup language~~ XML format.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (original): The application management system according to claim 1, wherein the means for encoding and decoding application management data comprise a TCP encoding and decoding means.

Claim 4 (original): The application management system according to claim 1, wherein the application management server computer further comprises a browser application program being communicatively coupled to the means for encoding and decoding application management data that is installed at the application management server computer in a way that a application management data request message is forwarded from the browser application program to the means for encoding and decoding application management data.

Claim 5 (original): The application management system according to claim 1, wherein the managed application comprises an agent process being communicatively coupled to a management information data base, in which the application management data about at least one application of the managed application is stored.

Claim 6 (original): The application management system according to claim 1, wherein the application management data comprises at least one type of the following data:

- lifecycle management data,
- configuration management data, and/or
- application log management data.

Claim 7 (original): The application management system according to claim 1, comprising a further browser application program being installed on an application management client computer, which is coupled to the management server computer via a communication network, the further browser application program being adapted to send application management data requests.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An application management server device, comprising a first means for encoding and decoding application management data for transmission to ~~and from~~ at least one managed application being coupled to the server device via a communication network, the first means for encoding and decoding application management data being adapted to encode and decode application management data at least partially based on an XML ~~markup language~~ format.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A managed application, comprising a ~~second~~ means for encoding and decoding application management data for transmission ~~to and from~~ an application management server device being coupled to the managed application via a communication network, the ~~second~~ means for encoding and decoding application management data being adapted to encode and decode application management data at least partially based on an XML ~~markup language~~ format.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for managing managed applications using an application management system comprising a management server computer, at least one managed application, wherein application management data is transmitted ~~between from~~ the management server computer ~~and to~~ the managed application, wherein the transmitted application management data is encoded at least partially based on an XML ~~markup language~~ format.

Claim 11 (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the application management data encoded at least partially based on an XML format is further encoded according to the TCP format.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein a browser application program is provided in the management server computer for forwarding a network a-management data request from the browser application program to the means for encoding and decoding application management data.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to claim 12, comprising the following steps:

- encoding a application management data request message at least partially according to an XML ~~markup language~~ format;
- encoding the application management data request message according to the TCP format;
- transmitting the encoded application management data request message to the managed application;
- decoding the encoded application management data request message according to the TCP format;
- decoding the TCP-decoded application management data request message at least partially according to the ~~markup language~~ XML format;
- determining the requested application management data requested in the application management data request message; and
- reporting the determined requested application management data to the management server computer.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to claim 13, comprising the following steps:

- encoding an application management data response message at least partially according to the ~~markup language~~ XML format, the application management data response message including the determined requested application management data;

- encoding the application management data response message according to the TCP format;
- transmitting the encoded application management data response message to the management server computer;
- decoding the encoded application management data response message according to the TCP format;
- decoding the TCP-decoded application management data response message at least partially according to the ~~markup language~~XML format.

Claim 15 (original): The method according to claim 14, displaying the determined requested application management data using a graphic user interface.